

Message Text

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APPROVED BY:NEA-EDWARD ABINGTON

S/S-MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 221809

NODIS

EYES ONLY FOR SAUNDERS FROM ATHERTON

FOLLOWING REPEAT AMMAN 6286 ACTION SECSTATE 17 SEP 75

QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 6286

NODIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY SISCO FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MASS, JO, US

SUBJECT: HAWK MISSILES

REF: A. STATE 219924 B. AMMAN 6261 :. STATE 220013 D. AMMAN 6283

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL D, KING AND RIFAI AGREE TO
DEPARTMENT PRESENTING LETTER TO CONGRESS ALONG LINES
NEGOTIATED WITH SENATOR CASE. THIS TELEGRAM REPORTS
DETAILS OF MY CONVERSATIONS ON SUBJECT.

2. REFTEL C ARRIVED IN AMMAN AFTER KING HAD LEFT FOR
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AQABA. I WAS ABLE TO CONTACT RIFAI AND KING AFTER KING'S

ARRIVAL IN AQABA. KING ASKED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE THAT I TALK AGAIN WITH RIFAI. RIFAI AND I WERE THEN IN TOUCH BY PHONE. I TOLD HIM THAT HIS EARLIER PROPOSAL (REFTEL B) IN WASHINGTON'S JUDGMENT HAD NO CHANCE OF ACCEPTANCE AND THAT I WAS INSTRUCTED TO SEE KING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. RIFAI WHO WAS STILL IN AMMAN SAID HE HAD JUST FINISHED TALKING WITH KING HIMSELF AND ASKED IF I COULD COME BY HIS HOUSE FOR A CHAT.

3. A FEW MINUTES LATER I MET RIFAI. HE ASKED FOR THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT AND I REVIEWED FOR HIM VERY BRIEFLY THE FACT THAT WASHINGTON HAD CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY OF PROPOSAL ON TWO SEPARATE LETTERS AND HAD INSTRUCTED ME TO SEE THE KING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON OUR ORIGINAL UNCLASSIFIED FORMULATION.

4. RIFAI THEN SAID THAT HE HAD EARLIER IN THE DAY TALKED TO KING ABOUT THE ORIGINAL FORMULATION, PRESENTED FROM MEMORY IN ARABIC WHAT WE WISHED TO INCLUDE IN THE LETTER, AND RECEIVED THE RESPONSE WHICH HE HAD PREDICTED. KING, HE SAID, GOT MAD AND TOLD RIFAI IF THAT HAPPENED HE WOULD ISSUE A STATEMENT INDICATING THAT WHATEVER JORDAN GOT IN THE WAY OF ARMS FROM ANYWHERE HE WOULD USE AS IT SAW FIT.

5. RIFAI THEN SAID HE HAD TALKED FURTHER AFTER ABOVE WITH THE KING AND THOUGHT HE HAD MADE SOME PROGRESS. HE SAID THEN HE WOULD PHONE THE KING BACK RIGHT AWAY IN AQABA AND WOULD GIVE HIM, OVER THEIR REASONABLY SECURE MICROWAVE CIRCUIT, THE TEXT OF WHAT WE ACTUALLY PROPOSED AND WOULD DO WHATEVER HE COULD TO SEEK KING'S ACCEPTANCE. HE MADE CLEAR THAT I FELT EVERYTHING IN THE LETTER AGREED WITH WHAT JORDAN INTENDED TO DO AND WHILE THE KING MIGHT SUFFER SOME PUBLIC EMBARRASSMENT IN ARAB WORLD WITH ITS PUBLICATION, HE WAS PREPARED TO TRY TO GET IT ACCEPTED. WHILE WE TALKED, I REVIEWED FOR RIFAI THE FACT THAT AS BETWEEN A CLASSIFIED AND UNCLASSIFIED LETTER, IT WAS PROBABLY A DISTINCTION WITHOUT A DIFFERENCE. WORKING WITH THE CONGRESS, A CLASSIFIED LETTER WAS LIKELY TO BECOME AS PUBLIC AS THE UNCLASSIFIED LETTER. IF JORDAN COULD ACCEPT IT IN ONE

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FORM IT COULD PROBABLY LIVE WITH IT IN ANOTHER. I THEN REPEATED FOR RIFAI THE FACT THAT THE KING WAS GOING TO GET ALL 14 BATTERIES WITH NO CHANGE IN THE CONTRACT, THAT THE SECRETARY HAD MADE A STRENUOUS PERSONAL EFFORT TO WORK OUT THIS FORMULA, AND THAT WE WERE NOT ASKING FOR ANY ADDITIONAL COMMITMENT FROM JORDAN. I STRESSED AGAIN THE FACT THAT THIS WAS PURELY BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONGRESS. RIFAI HIMSELF ADDED THE POINT

THAT THE US COULD HAVE GONE AHEAD AND ISSUED LETTER ON ITS OWN WITHOUT CONSULTING JORDAN.

6. RIFAI THEN SAID "WE HAVE TO APPROACH THE KING ON THIS IN STEPS. I THINK WE CAN GET IT SOLD. THE KING WILL WANT TO ISSUE A PUBLIC STATEMENT WHEN IT COMES OUT. HE MAY HAVE TO SAY WE WILL USE THESE WEAPONS AS WE SEE FIT." I TOLD RIFAI FRANKLY THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF DOING ANYTHING LIKE THAT. THE KING WAS BETTER OFF NOT UNDERGOING THE PROCESS OF THE US LETTER AND THEN TURNING AROUND AND TRYING TO KNOCK IT DOWN. THE CONGRESS THEN WOULD ONLY BE MOVED TO ACT AGAINST THE SALE. I URGED RIFAI TO THINK OF SOMETHING POSITIVE TO COVER THEIR PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM HERE. FINALLY AFTER CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS HE SAID "OKAY, WE WILL WAIT UNTIL YOU OFFICIALLY INFORM US THAT THE SALE CAN GO THROUGH AS ORIGINALLY WORKED OUT AND THEN WE WILL SAY JUST THAT." I SAID THAT SEEMED TO ME REASONABLE AND I WOULD TELL WASHINGTON THAT IS WHAT JORDAN PLANNED TO DO IF THE KING AGREES.

7. RIFAI THEN GOT THE KING ON THE PHONE AND TOLD HIM THAT I WAS WITH HIM AND EXPLAINED THAT WE WERE GOING TO GIVE HIM THE WORDING OF THE STATEMENT FOR THE CONGRESS. BEFORE RIFAI COULD GO ON THE KING DICTATED TO HIM A TWO PAGES LEGAL SIZE SINGLE SPACED STATEMENT IN ENGLISH WHICH RIFAI TOOK DOWN IN LONG HAND. THEN RIFAI TOLD HIM IN ARABIC, ONLY SNATCHES OF WHICH I GOT, THAT WE WERE HARD AGAINST THE CONGRESSIONAL DEADLINE AND THAT TOMORROW (17 SEPTEMBER) THE WHOLE THING HAD TO BE SETTLED. THE US STATEMENT WAS AN ELABORATION ONLY OF WHAT WAS IN THE KING'S LETTER AND THAT IT WAS PURELY BETWEEN THE CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION. JORDAN WAS NOT BEING ASKED TO COMMIT ITSELF TO ANYTHING

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MORE. THE 14 HAWKS WOULD COME THROUGH WITH NO CHANGE IN THE BASIC ARRANGEMENT. RIFAI THEN READ THE STATEMENT TO HIM IN ENGLISH. HE ALSO EXPLAINED SUBSEQUENTLY THAT HE AND I HAD WORKED ON THE QUESTION AS THE KING HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO DO AND THAT WE HAD COME UP WITH A PROCEDURE THAT ONLY AFTER I HAD INFORMED JORDAN OFFICIALLY THAT THE SALE WOULD GO THROUGH WOULD THEY MAKE A STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT. RIFAI AND THE KING TALKED SOME MORE AND THEN RIFAI SAID "OKAY, WE WILL GO AHEAD."

8. RIFAI THEN PICKED UP THE LONG DICTATED ENGLISH TEXT FROM THE KING AND READ ME A FEW SENTENCES, THE PURPORT OF WHICH WAS JORDAN WILL DO WHAT IT WANTS WHEN IT GETS WEAPONS FROM ANYWHERE AND THEN SAID: "NOW WE CAN PUT THIS AWAY." HE FOLDED IT UP AND PUT IT IN HIS POCKET. HE HANDED ME THE TEXT OF THE

DEPARTMENT'S LETTER TO CONGRESS WHICH HE HAD HAD BEFORE HIM AND SAID "YOU CAN GO AHEAD WITH THAT AND WE WILL DO IT JUST THE WAY WE HAVE WORKED THINGS OUT." I REPEATED AGAIN FOR RIFAI MY UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WE PLANNED TO DO: SEND THE LETTER AND THEN ASK WASHINGTON, WHEN THE DEAL IS ALL SET TO GO THROUGH, TO INFORM ME SO THAT JORDAN CAN BE PREPARED ON THAT BASIS TO MAKE A STATEMENT ALONG THE LINES CONTAINED PARA 2 REFTEL D.

9. AT THE END, I THANKED RIFAI FOR ALL HIS HELP AND HE THANKED ME. HE SAID IT IS GREAT TO HAVE THIS WEIGHT OFF OUR SHOULDERS AND WAS VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THE WAY THE ARRANGEMENT HAD FINALLY BEEN WORKED OUT. IN TYPICAL RIFAI FASHION, HE ADDED, "I ALWAYS KNEW IT WAS GOING TO WORK OUT ALL RIGHT."
PICKERING
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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